

WSDOT 2016 Truck Parking Survey

In recent years, a growing lack of capacity for truck parking has become a national concern. The passage of Jason's Law in 2012 required a federal survey of truck parking challenges. The 2015 study addressed both public and private parking facilities along the National Highway System and inspired many states to assess the condition of their own truck parking needs. Due to this national concern, and the potential repercussions of insufficient truck parking, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is conducting a truck parking study. As part of the study, WSDOT conducted a survey of truck drivers and other stakeholders to collect information about truck parking in the state. WSDOT's survey was developed to better understand truck parking issues in Washington, using the FHWA and other recent state surveys to develop questions. FHWA and Washington Trucking Association partners, as well as trucking industry participants, reviewed the survey prior to distribution.

WSDOT sent the survey link via the state's Freight Alert subscription email system. It was also sent via email to the trucking associations in nine western states and British Columbia and the national associations for independent truck drivers and truck stop owners. Truck drivers, company owners and other employees familiar with parking issues were encouraged to participate, if their trucks are operated and parked in Washington state. The survey was active for the month of April 2016 and received 1,118 responses. Survey results are formatted to highlight key findings and, in some cases, remarks from respondents are provided to help illustrate and put the results into context.

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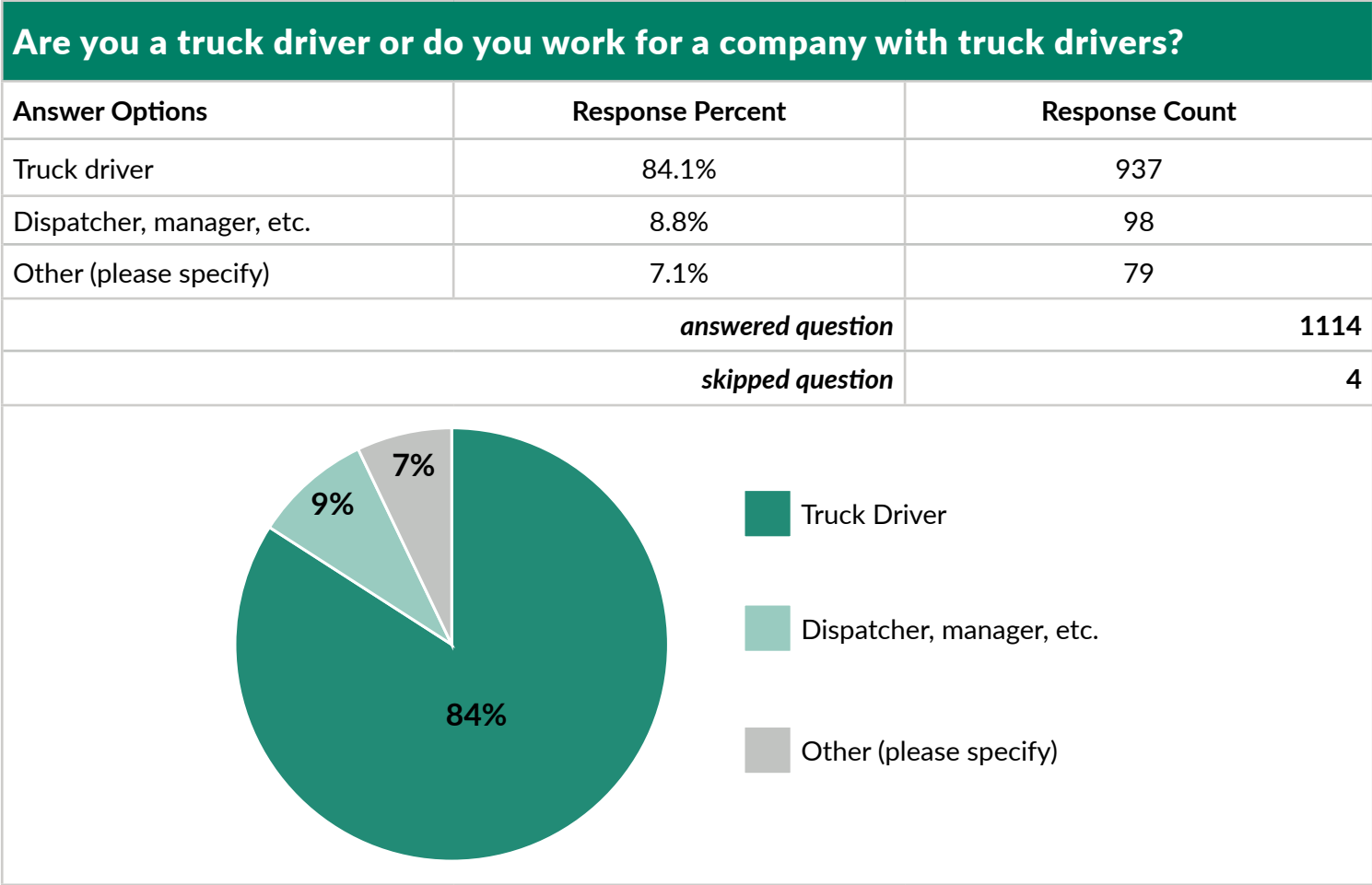
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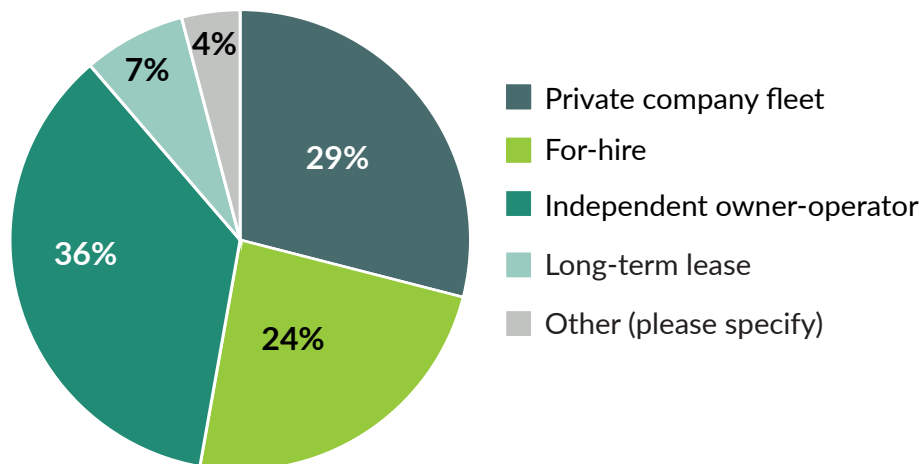
Question 1 of 18:



Question 2 of 18:

What is your company type?

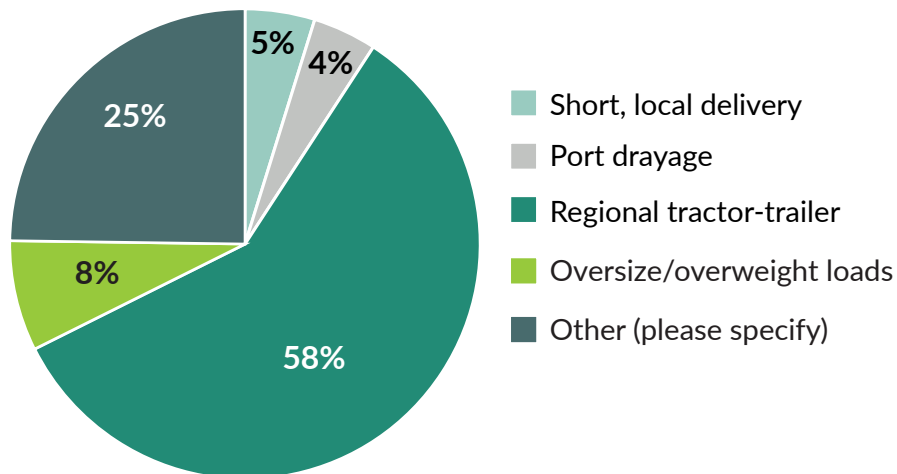
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Private company fleet	29.0%	322
For-hire	23.8%	264
Independent owner-operator	35.9%	399
Long-term lease	7.2%	80
Other (please specify)	4.1%	45
<i>answered question</i>		1110
<i>skipped question</i>		8



Question 3 of 18:

What type of trucks are used most by your company?

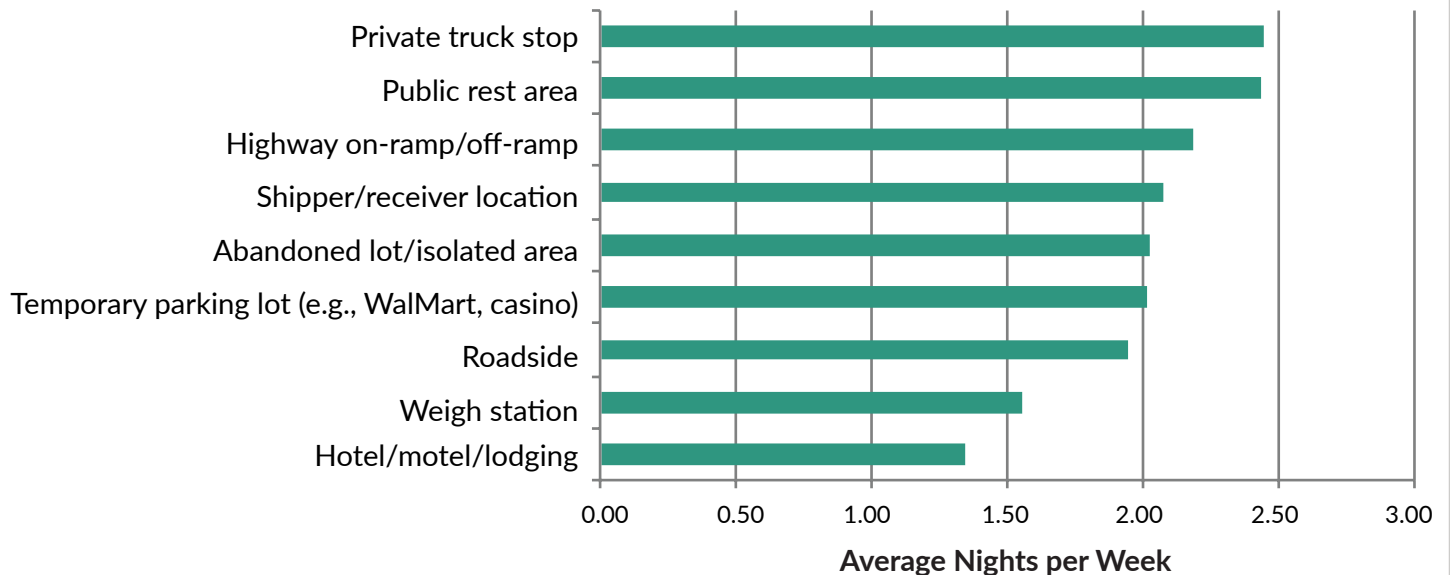
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Short, local delivery	4.8%	53
Port drayage	4.4%	48
Regional tractor-trailer	58.5%	645
Oversize/overweight loads	7.6%	84
Other (please specify)	24.8%	273
<i>answered question</i>		1103
<i>skipped question</i>		15



Question 4 of 18:

How many days weekly are the following used for short-term parking for rest breaks in Washington state?

Answer Options	0	1-2	3-5	6-7	Prohibited by employer?	Average Days per Week	Response Count
Private truck stop	79	365	199	105	3	2.45	751
Public rest area	89	352	181	106	6	2.44	734
Highway on-ramp/off-ramp	310	164	70	33	101	2.19	678
Shipper/receiver location	229	287	109	65	15	2.08	705
Abandoned lot/isolated area	267	271	72	44	43	2.03	697
Temporary parking lot (e.g., WalMart, casino)	236	305	87	48	22	2.02	698
Roadside	386	117	40	27	87	1.95	657
Weigh station	425	140	45	30	12	1.56	652
Hotel/motel/lodging	487	105	18	13	10	1.35	633
Other (please specify)							34
answered question							792
skipped question							326



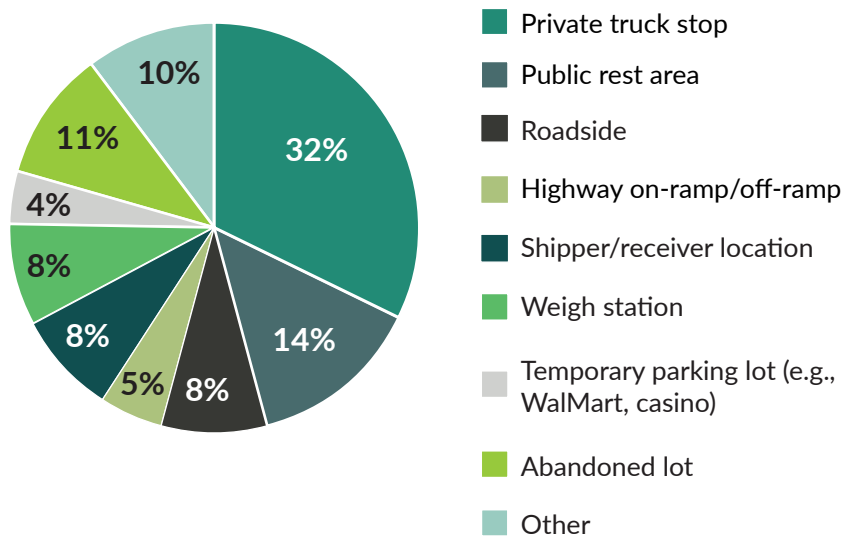
Question 5 of 18:

Please rank your preference for short-term parking for rest breaks in Washington state.

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Response Count
Private truck stop	213	95	36	19	33	11	27	42	131	607
Public rest area	90	164	69	39	45	33	45	56	68	609
Roadside	54	31	27	16	20	28	55	73	73	377
Highway on-ramp/off-ramp	33	42	43	35	40	54	60	66	35	408
Shipper/receiver location	53	66	137	89	60	30	37	18	26	516
Weigh station	54	24	51	74	80	66	49	37	27	462
Temporary parking lot (e.g., WalMart, casino)	26	57	77	102	101	66	56	20	15	520
Abandoned lot	69	35	44	59	79	82	46	65	27	506
Other	66	15	24	14	30	36	36	24	94	339
<i>answered question</i>										769
<i>skipped question</i>										349

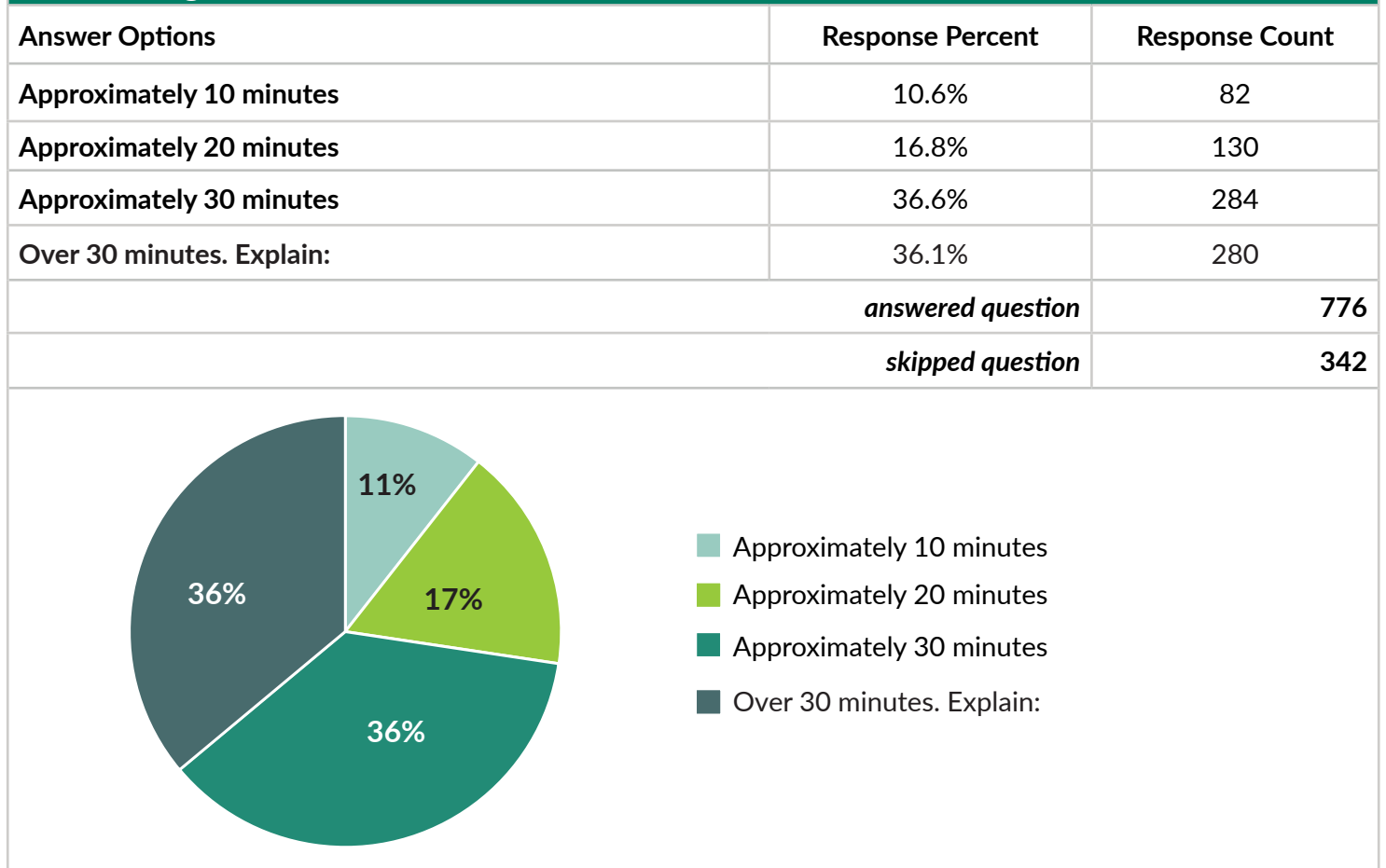
Answer Options	#1 Count	%
Private truck stop	213	32.37%
Public rest area	90	13.68%
Abandoned lot	69	10.49%
Other	66	10.03%
Weigh Station	54	8.21%
Roadside	54	8.21%
Shipper/receiver location	53	8.05%
Highway on-ramp/off-ramp	33	5.02%
Temporary parking lot (e.g., WalMart, casino)	26	3.95%
Total	658	100%

#1 Preference for Short-Term Parking in Washington state



Question 6 of 18:

How much time does it typically take to find short-term parking for rest breaks in Washington state?



Answer Option: Over 30 minutes

Sampling of responses

"Receivers/ shippers do not allow, truck stops are small and mostly full, no street parking."

"We run 20+ trucks and drivers go to new locations all the time. It can take a driver from 30 minutes to an hour for a driver to find safe parking."

"None available or lot full, no signage to indicate space available"

"Depending on the time you start looking for a place to park it can take a very long time. After 4 pm any day I would say you will have difficulty trying to find safe secure parking."

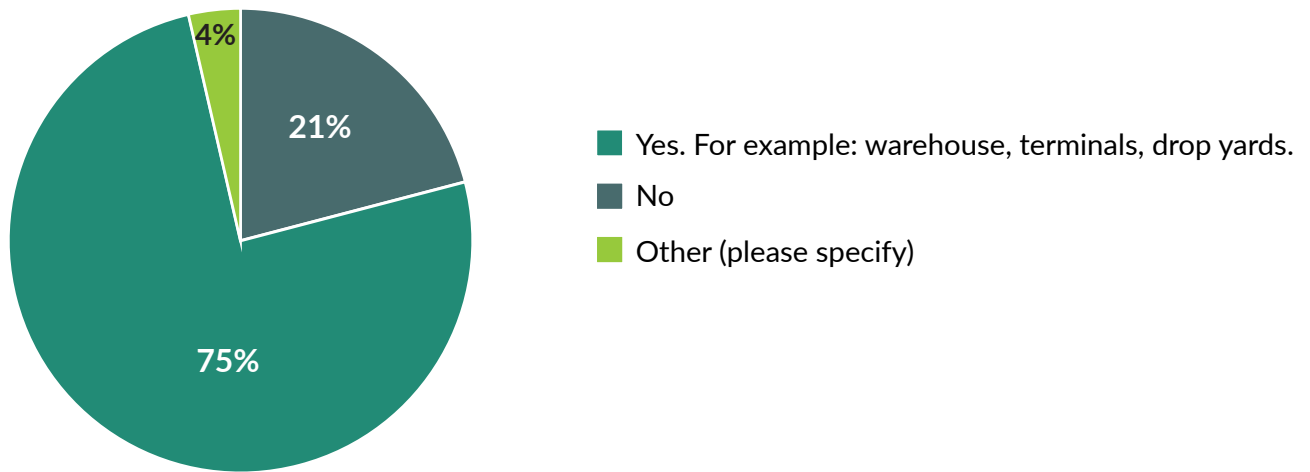
"Between the hours of 2pm and 5am it's virtually impossible to find any kind of 'safe' parking."

"I drive in usually from Texas and lack knowledge of local options."

Question 7 of 18:

Does your company provide overnight truck parking for your use in Washington state?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes. For example: warehouse, terminals, drop yards.	20.9%	109
No	75.4%	393
Other (please specify)	3.6%	19
<i>answered question</i>		521
<i>skipped question</i>		597



Answer Option: Other (please specify)

Sampling of responses

"Park at home when possible"

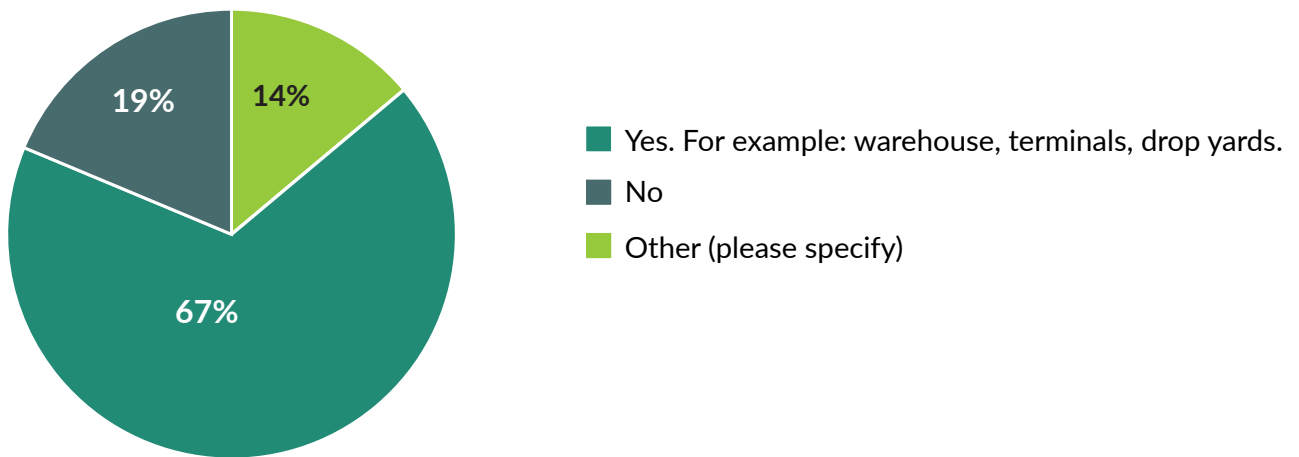
"We have a drop yard with limited parking (10 spots). We have over 2000 trucks."

"Yes, if in certain areas"

Question 8 of 18:

Does a receiving location provide overnight truck parking for your use in Washington state?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes. For example: warehouse, terminals, drop yards.	13.9%	72
No	67.4%	350
Other (please specify)	18.7%	97
answered question		519
skipped question		599



Answer Option: Other (please specify)

Sampling of responses

"Some places do and some don't. Depends on receiver."

"Some do. Most do not."

"Most do not, in spite of having space for trucks to park that are delivering or shipping."

"Depends on location. Most shippers/receivers don't allow trucks on their property except to load and unload. They do not want trucks hanging around, do your business and leave."

"Sometimes there is ample room at the customer but often it is either fenced and locked, or local ordinance will not allow truck parking."

"Most locations in the greater Seattle/Tacoma area don't. A few in Auburn and Kent do."

Question 9 of 18:

How many nights weekly are the following used for overnight parking in Washington state?

Answer Options	0	1-2	3-5	6-7	Prohibited by employer?	Average Days per Week	Response Count
Private truck stop	65	235	119	60	1	2.37	480
Public rest area	86	252	71	43	2	2.17	454
Highway on-ramp/off-ramp	253	87	15	13	62	1.94	430
Shipper/receiver location	273	58	13	11	64	1.89	419
Abandoned lot/isolated area	210	146	25	21	29	1.87	431
Temporary parking lot (e.g., WalMart, casino)	190	167	41	18	16	1.85	432
Roadside	192	182	33	19	8	1.78	434
Weigh station	288	82	19	9	12	1.48	410
Hotel/motel/lodging	310	75	11	10	5	1.36	411
Other (please specify)							27
answered question							497
skipped question							621

Private truck stop

Public rest area

Highway on-ramp/off-ramp

Shipper/receiver location

Abandoned lot/isolated area

Temporary parking lot (e.g., WalMart, casino)

Roadside

Weigh station

Hotel/motel/lodging

0.00

0.50

1.00

1.50

2.00

2.50

Average Nights per Week

Answer Option: Other (please specify)

Sampling of responses

"I try not to go to Washington unless I can make it in and out without a break."

"I use our company lot when prudent."

"Our drivers are home at night and do not need overnight parking."

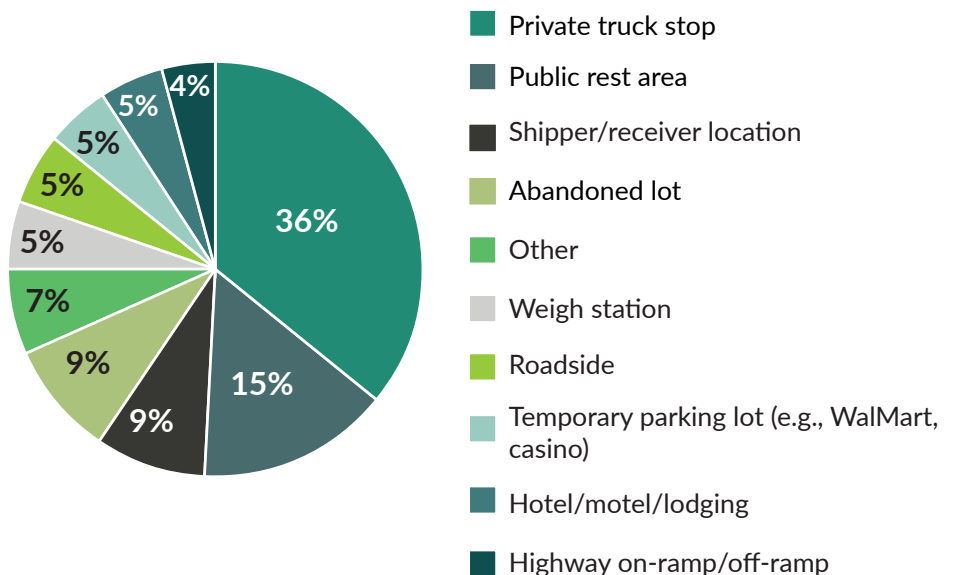
Question 10 of 18:

Please rank your preference for overnight parking type in Washington state.

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Response Count
Public rest area	54	106	33	26	21	19	13	10	26	22	330
Private truck stop	131	67	20	9	10	8	9	16	24	79	373
Shipper/receiver location	32	39	85	40	29	9	11	21	12	18	296
Weigh station	20	8	24	61	27	33	27	16	20	14	250
Highway on-ramp/off-ramp	15	21	15	12	27	23	29	30	33	17	222
Temporary parking lot (e.g., WalMart, casino)	18	22	53	60	56	44	21	8	8	3	293
Hotel/motel/lodging	18	14	20	22	42	37	43	24	10	16	246
Roadside	20	22	12	6	18	18	19	54	44	25	238
Abandoned lot	32	14	28	28	28	35	40	28	35	12	280
Other	24	6	3	4	14	8	14	17	23	55	168
<i>answered question</i>											450
<i>skipped question</i>											668

Answer Options	#1 Count	%
Private truck stop	131	35.99%
Public rest area	54	14.84%
Shipper/receiver location	32	8.79%
Abandoned lot	32	8.79%
Other	24	6.59%
Weigh station	20	5.49%
Roadside	20	5.49%
Temporary parking lot (e.g., WalMart, casino)	18	4.95%
Hotel/motel/lodging	18	4.95%
Highway on-ramp/off-ramp	15	4.12%
Total	364	100%

#1 Preference for Overnight Parking in Washington state



Question 11 of 18:

In what corridor of Washington state do you find it most difficult to find safe and legal parking overnight?

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Rating Average	Response Count
I-405	63	77	23	12	5	5	3	4	2	11	2	7	6	19	4.27	239
I-5	131	53	29	9	14	8	11	8	7	16	3	4	7	37	4.55	337
I-90	56	41	43	39	25	9	9	8	4	17	8	11	12	31	5.58	313
I-82	8	18	44	28	19	6	3	5	9	5	7	5	12	5	5.60	174
US 97	1	9	8	12	22	15	28	13	6	5	5	5	2	10	6.92	141
US 12	6	3	7	10	7	32	7	9	10	10	3	10	5	1	7.03	120
US 2	5	7	8	9	24	8	15	7	6	5	11	5	5	9	7.13	124
SR 167	14	14	15	16	9	7	5	5	6	6	6	4	4	31	7.23	142
US 395	0	3	10	14	16	11	9	10	28	9	8	7	2	3	7.41	130
SR 18	5	8	17	13	10	5	5	7	5	4	4	27	8	7	7.60	125
US 195	4	4	1	1	5	12	8	29	10	7	4	4	5	3	7.87	97
SR 14	2	4	9	8	6	5	6	7	9	35	8	5	2	2	7.96	108
SR 16	3	3	5	4	5	3	5	8	7	6	28	7	7	7	9.04	98
SR 26	3	6	1	6	3	6	7	2	5	5	3	5	33	7	9.49	92
answered question																450
skipped question																668

Answer Options	#1 Count	%
I-5	131	43.52%
I-405	63	20.93%
I-90	56	18.60%
SR 167	14	4.65%
I-82	8	2.66%
US 12	6	1.99%
US 2	5	1.66%
SR 18	5	1.66%
US 195	4	1.33%
SR 16	3	1.00%
SR 26	3	1.00%
SR 14	2	0.66%
US 97	1	0.33%
US 395	0	0.00%
Total	301	100.00%



Question 12 of 18:

Following up on #11, please provide as much information as possible regarding the top 5 corridors in Washington state where you find it most difficult to find safe and legal parking overnight.

Sampling of responses

"[I-5] north and south, the entire length. Not many rest areas. Seattle metro the wors[t], no rest areas."

"Entire route [I-90] for Oversize Loads"

"I- 405 either direction no parking except ramps, which have usually dangerously narrow shoulders."

"I-5 – just too many gaps and too few truck stops or rest areas."

"Anywhere in the Seattle metro area is impossible to park."

"Going north or south [on I-5]. After the weigh station before JBLM (Joint Base Lewis-McChord) all the way past Seattle."

"I-5 with a lot of truck traffic both north and south bound; what parking is there fills up very fast."

"I- 82 both directions"

"I-90 coming over Snoqualmie pass into Seattle is a big trouble spot for parking because most trucks don't get into that area until late evening and the TA (TravelCenters of America) in North Bend Washington is already filled so the drivers have nowhere else to park over night!"

"I-90 East & West. North Bend is a mess. Need more truck stops going into Seattle."

"The I-5 from Olympia North. There is so little parking available it fills up fast."

"I-5 in the Seattle-Tacoma area is very hard to find parking. We can't street park, or at shipper/receiver. The closest area is I-90."

"I-405 both North and South"

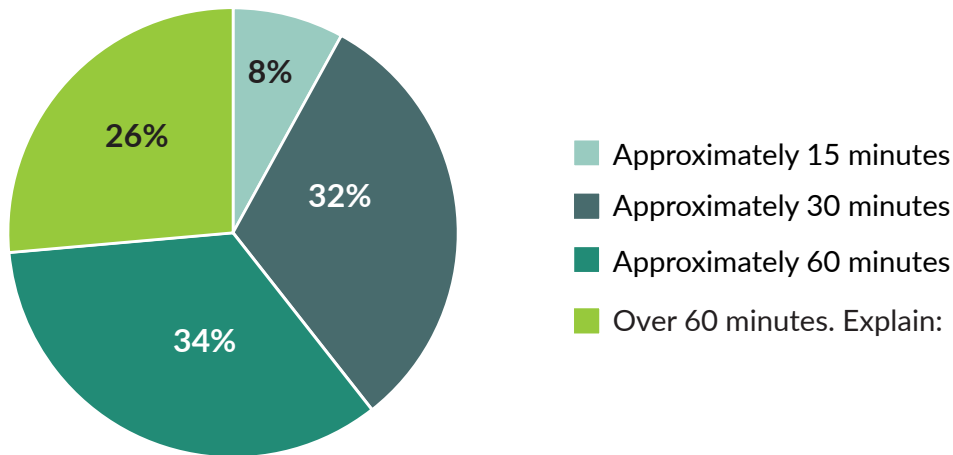
"167 NORTH / SOUTH"

"I-5 [and] I-405, all of Seattle area from Ellensburg to way south of Seattle, if you don't have a spot by 2pm you're not going to get one."

Question 13 of 18:

How much time does it typically take to find overnight parking in Washington state?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Approximately 15 minutes	8.0%	35
Approximately 30 minutes	31.4%	138
Approximately 60 minutes	34.2%	150
Over 60 minutes. Explain:	26.4%	116
<i>answered question</i>		439
<i>skipped question</i>		679



Answer Option: Over 60 minutes

Sampling of responses

"After 4 pm finding a spot becomes very difficult and you can spend well over 60 minutes find safe secure parking."

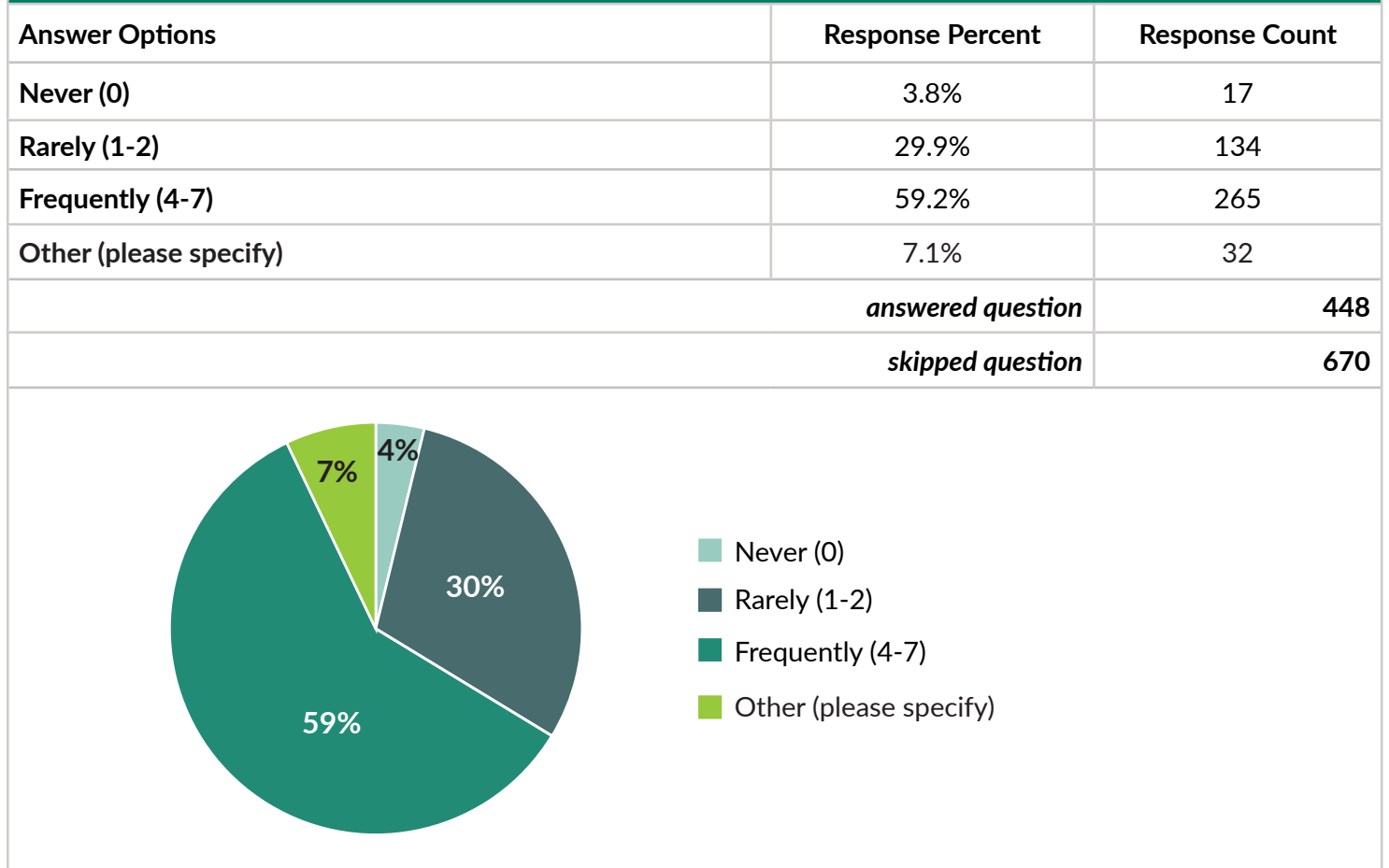
"Not enough parking available in and around Seattle."

"I have driven anywhere between 100-150 miles to find parking after 9:00 p.m."

"Have to try multiple truck parking areas to find a safe spot."

Question 14 of 18:

For overnight parking in Washington state, how many nights weekly is safety a concern for you or your drivers?



Answer Option: Other (please specify)

Sampling of responses

"Every night is a safety concern in public lots."

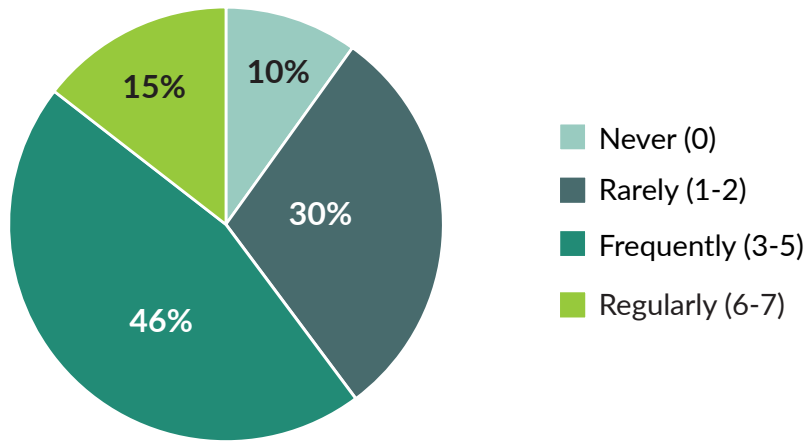
"It is always a concern taking a load to Seattle of where to stop."

"We just charge a much higher rate now to go to Washington. Just not worth the safety risk of going there."

Question 15 of 18:

For short-term and overnight parking in Washington state, how many days weekly has a shortage of truck parking resulted in fatigued driving for you or your drivers?

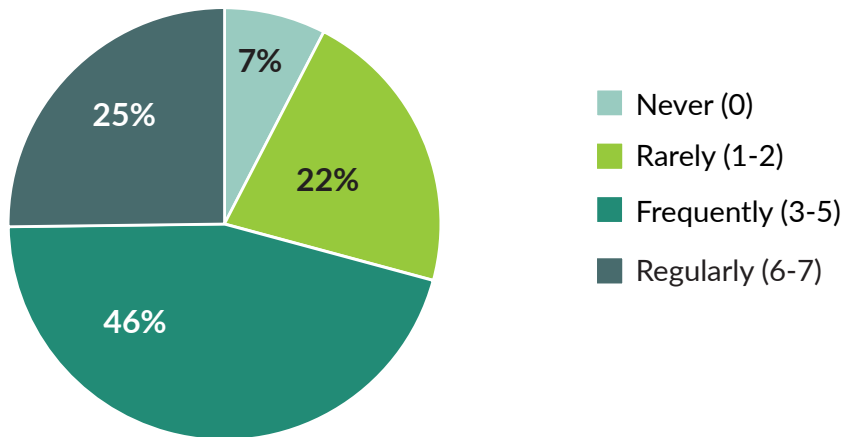
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Never (0)	9.9%	43
Rarely (1-2)	29.9%	130
Frequently (3-5)	45.7%	199
Regularly (6-7)	14.5%	63
<i>answered question</i>		435
<i>skipped question</i>		683



Question 16 of 18:

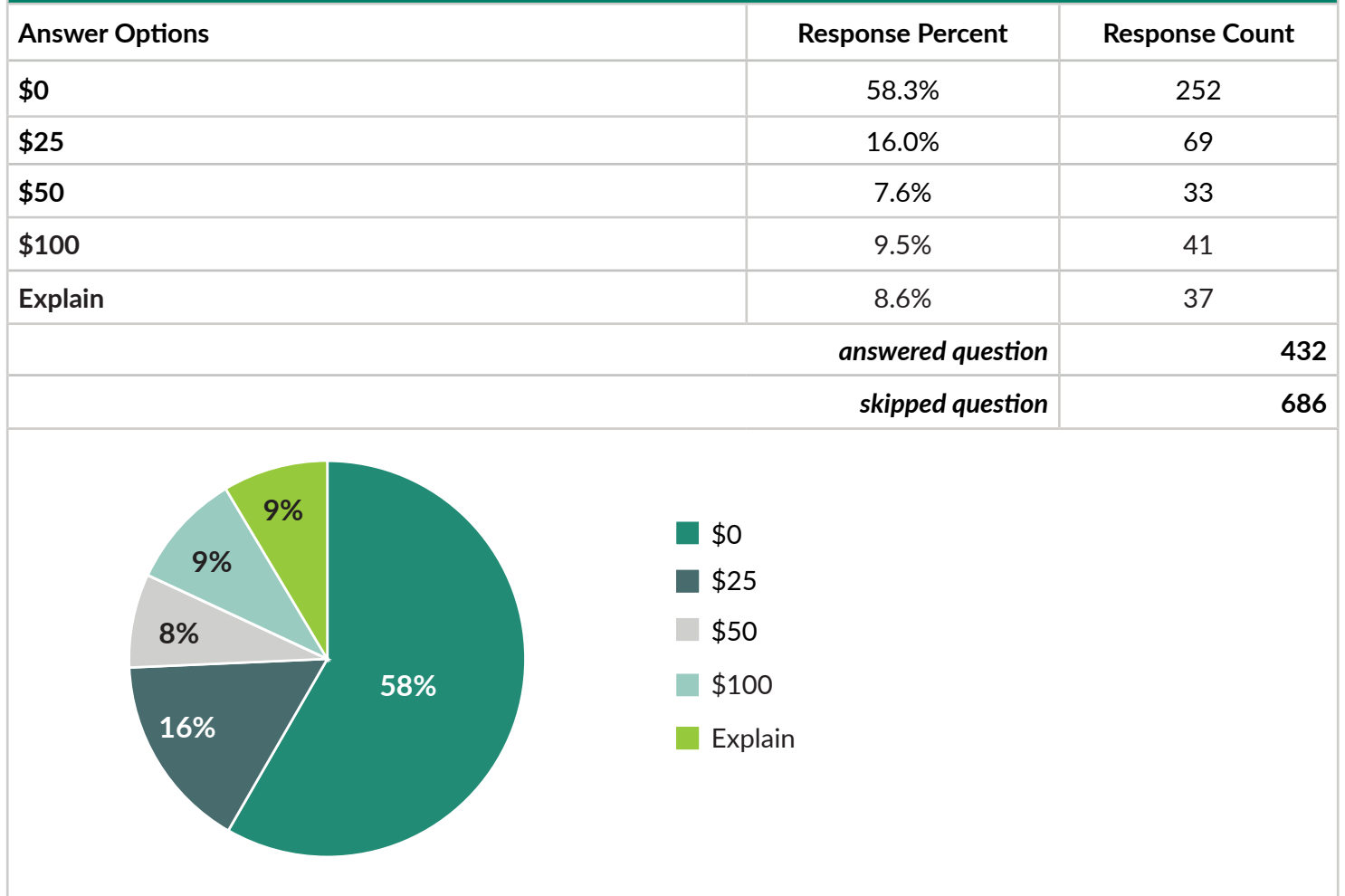
For short-term and overnight parking in Washington state, how many days weekly has a shortage of truck parking created a challenge for you or your drivers to operate within the maximum hours of service?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Never (0)	7.6%	33
Rarely (1-2)	21.6%	94
Frequently (3-5)	45.6%	199
Regularly (6-7)	25.2%	110
<i>answered question</i>		436
<i>skipped question</i>		682



Question 17 of 18:

What annual fee, per truck, would you or your company be willing to pay if it were dedicated towards providing additional truck parking in Washington state?



Answer Option: Explain

Sampling of responses

"We shouldn't have to pay. We pay fuel taxes, road taxes and taxes on goods bought there. If you want goods, you need to provide safe havens for trucks."

"I wouldn't mind a small fee if it was guaranteed to increase parking."

"I would rather pay on a per visit basis just for the simple fact that I may or may not go to Washington every week or longer."

Question 18 of 18:

Do you have general comments about truck parking in Washington state that you would like to share? What is your biggest truck parking issue, if not already discussed?

Sampling of responses

"Finding fuel, showers, food and safe parking is extremely difficult anywhere around the Seattle Tacoma area."

"Each jurisdiction has its own parking rules, which are difficult to keep up with as we deliver goods around the state."

"It is difficult for oversize parking because most private truck stops and rest areas do not have the room for oversize, especially over length."

"Drivers are required to rest because it's a safety issue. If safety is really the concern then enough rest areas for all truckers should be provided."

"Everyone wants their stuff, but no one wants trucks. The public needs to be educated."

"We need more safe places to park. And we should not have to pay to park."

"I'm mostly familiar with the Seattle and Spokane area. Seattle is the most difficult. Timing is very important. An afternoon delivery is most stressful, finding a spot is difficult."

"[There] are not enough truck parking areas...especially in the Tacoma/North Bend area. If you are not in there by 3 - 4 at the latest [you] have to sleep on a on ramp, thus possibly causing an accident!"

"Not enough legal, safe parking around and in Seattle area. Trucks banned from city streets due to ordinances. Un-safe truck stops charging high fees for no services."

"Truck stops and rest areas are ALWAYS crowded by early afternoon."

"Besides a shortage of space, there needs to be a way to keep cars, pickups with small trailers, and campers OUT of big truck parking."